WHEREAS; encompassing a wide range of topics and disciplines, the arts and humanities encourage collaborative, intergenerational, and cross-cultural learning, and enable individual expression through a variety of different media; and

WHEREAS; the arts and humanities build connections and understanding between diverse groups of people within our communities, enriching the lives of all Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; creative and cultural industries are important economic drivers in Wisconsin, with arts and cultural businesses employing more than 96,000 people and representing over three percent of our state's economy; and

WHEREAS; in 2020, we have needed the arts and humanities more than ever – to creatively deal with the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, to provide cultural context for issues of racial equity and social justice, to foster cultural understanding and community healing, and to successfully reopen and sustain our local and state economies; and

WHEREAS; this occasion provides an opportunity for all Wisconsinites to support and participate in – whether in-person or virtually – the arts and humanities at schools, universities, cultural festivals, and small businesses throughout our state; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins the thousands of organizations and individuals across our state who are dedicated to promoting the arts and humanities, including the Wisconsin Arts Board and Wisconsin Humanities, in enabling thoughtful engagement in civic life, celebrating cultural activities in our communities, and encouraging all Wisconsinites to find their own creative voice;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim October 2020 as

ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.